

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00685 170616Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 PM-05 SS-15 NSC-05  
/072 W

-----116536 171951Z /62

R 160851Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7563  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
CINCPAC  
CONCUSNAVEUR  
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0685

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PORS PINS PEPR ECON EFIN EFIS MPHSE FR  
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW, JUNE 16, 1978 - SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 0657 (DTG 091223Z JUN 78)  
PORT LOUIS A-50, JUNE 16, 1978

1. A MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION IN THE TOWN OF CUREPIPE ON JUNE 11, THE FIRST TEST OF THE ELECTORATE IN MORE THAN A YEAR, PRODUCED A VICTORY FOR THE LABOR-MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) COALITION. THOUGH THE WARD IN QUESTION WAS KNOWN TO BE A LABOR PARTY STRONGHOLD, AND THE PMSD GAVE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO THE LABOR CANDIDATE WHO WON, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OUTCOME WAS THAT THE COALITION MAN WON 60 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, A GOOD INCREASE OVER LABOR'S 54 PER CENT SHOWING A YEAR EARLIER. THE MOTE FOR THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) CANDIDATE FELL FROM  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT L 00685 170616Z

44 PER CENT LAST YEAR TO 30 PER CENT THIS TIME. OF EQUAL SIGNIFICANCE WAS THE FACT THAT 52 PER CENT OF THE VOTERS FAILED TO VOTE, AN ABSTENTION RATE HIGHER THAN NORMAL FOR A CONTESTED BY-ELECTION, LEADING SOME OBSERVERS TO CONCLUDE THAT A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE ARE DISSATISFIED WITH BOTH THE MMM AND THE GOVERNING COALITION. BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS PROCLAIMING A VICTORY, AND THE MMM DID SUFFER A PSYCHOLOGICAL

SET-BACK IN ITS DRIVE TO TAKE POWER NATIONALLY.

2. ANOTHER STARTLING, THOUGH NOT ALTOGETHER UNEXPECTED, DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED IN THE JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE MAURICIEN FIRE ON JUNE 9 WHEN YVES BEDOS, THE SECURICOR GUARD, REAPPEARED VOLUNTARILY TO TESTIFY THAT HE HAD LIED IN HIS PREVIOUS TESTIMONY AND THAT EVERYTHING HE HAD SAID ABOUT BEING DURGED BY SHEIK HOSSEN WAS FALSE. HE BLAMED HIS BEHAVIOR ON HARASSMENT BY THE FORMER EDITOR OF THE MMM NEWSPAPER AND SAID FEAR HAD CAUSED HIM TO LIE. THIS EVENT JUST ABOUT COMPLETES THE DISCREDITING OF SHEIKHHOSSEN'S STORY. THE OTHER PRINCIPAL WITNESS THIS WEEK AS MMM DEPUTY DARGA, WHO DENIED SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRE.

3.K JUGNAUTH, LEADER OF THE MMM OPPOSITION, LED OFF THE MMM ATTACK ON FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO'S PROPOSED BUDGET (REFTEL), BUT HIS SPEECH WAS TAME AND DEVOID OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS. HIS PLATITUDINOUS, UNINSPIRED PERFORMANCE DID LITTLE TO PRESERVE HIS CREDIBILITY AS A POTENTIAL PRIME MINISTER. AT ONE POINT HE DREW A DENIAL FROM PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM THAT THE LATTER HAD MADE SOME SORT OF SECRET DEAL WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING TO TRADE MAURITIUS' CLAIM TO TROMELIN ISLAND FOR UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT FROM FRANCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT L 00685 170616Z

4. FISHERIES MINISTER SEETARAM AND LABOR BACKBENCHER PEEROO, WHO REPRESENTED THE GOM AT THE RECENT COUP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN THE SEYCHELLES, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEY HAD MADE GREAT STRIDES IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH RENE'S GOVERNMENT, BUT THEY WERE SHORT ON SPECIFIC RESULTS OF THEIR TALKS IN VICTORIA. SEETARAM DID PREDICT THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR JOINT EXPLOITATION OF THE SAVA DE MALHA BANKS FISHERIES.  
KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SUMMARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTL00685  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780254-0463  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT LOUIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780650/aaaabrcm.tel  
**Line Count:** 103  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f3c95087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 PORT LOUIS 657  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2321076  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW, JUNE 16, 1978 - SUMMARY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PORS, PINS, PEPR, ECON, EFIN, EFIS, MP, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f3c95087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014